



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 500 POUNDS PER DAY OFF THE FLORIDA EAST COAST FOR VESSELS COMMERCIALY FISHING FOR SPANISH MACKEREL**

Beginning 6:00 a.m., March 16, 2005, the daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds in the commercial fishery for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the southern zone off the Florida east coast. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reduced the trip limit after determining that 100 percent of the adjusted quota, or 3,620,000 pounds, has been reached. The 500-pound trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial vessels fishing for Spanish mackerel in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) between the Florida/Georgia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundaries. Under Florida regulations, a similar 500-pound trip limit is effective in adjoining state waters.

The 500-pound trip limit will remain in effect through the end of the 2004/2005 fishing year, March 31, 2005. On April 1, 2005, the beginning of the 2005/2006 fishing year, the daily trip limit will increase automatically to 3,500 pounds for every day of the week until unlimited daily harvest/landing begins on December 1, 2005.

Vessels fishing in the EEZ under trip limits and quotas must possess a commercial federal Spanish mackerel permit. Quotas, trip limits, and permits, implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP), are necessary to protect the Atlantic group Spanish mackerel resource.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NMFS provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to customers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.